BULLETIN
METHODIST RURAL FELLOWSHIP
To Further Methodism's Part in Christianizing Rural Life

VOL. XVIII JUNE, 1961 NO. II

COLBROOK LIBRARY PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

A Tribute

TO DR. DUMONT CLARKE

Dr. Dumont Clarke, one of the truly great servants of God, the first and long-time director of the Lord's Acre Plan, is not with us any more, having passed away this last year. But through his life's work—the Lord's Acre, The Lord's Hour, and Scripture Prayer, he has left his spirit with us.

He believed in the Lord's Acre Plan because he knew it was based on the Bible. Over a quarter of a century he watched it at work. He saw that it brought new life to the town and country church. But more than this, it made the Scripture come alive, it taught stewardship, provided fellowship, was an aid to evangelism, fostered the growth of missions and brought about spiritual growth.

The Lord's Acre Plan still provides a way for many rural churches today. It with heartfelt gratitude that the M.R.F. Bulletin pays this tribute to a man who developed this Biblical plan into such an effective means of advancing the Kingdom of God in the countryside.

RURAL CHURCH WORKSHOP

The Minnesota Town and Country Commission sponsored the fourth annual rural church workshop, March 17, at the Southern School of Agriculture, Waseca.

The theme of the one-day workshop was, 'Planning for The Rural Church". Among the featured speakers were Dr. Calvin Schnucker, dean of the Seminary, University of Dubuque; Dr. Dean Turner, head of the Waseca school; Dr. Harold Swanson, professor of rural sociology, University of Minnesota; the Rev. William Foster, executive secretary of the Conference Commission; the Rev. Price Lackey of the Harmony Church, and the Rev. Harold A. Clark, chairman of the commission.

Pastors and laymen of the Evangelical United Brethren Church were also invited to attend the workshop.

Maine Churches Honored

Seven Methodist Churches were among those honored at Town and Country Church Day at the University of Maine, April 5, 1961.

The Certificate of Merit with distinction was granted to The Church on The Cape (Methodist) at Cape Porpoise and the Part St. Methodist Church in Milo.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to Howland Church and to Riverside Church in Kezar Falls.

Honorable mention was given to the Columbia Falls Church and Southport Church.

A City Lord's Acre

Methodist Men at First Church, Sedalia, Missouri, have their own Lord's Acre projects that netted $900 last year. Income was used to maintain a radio ministry from their church. Community Methodist in Columbia has had a fireplace wood cutting project for several years . . . a form of Lord's Acre in which rural and city members share.

METHODIST RURAL FELLOWSHIP BULLETIN

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James E. Hankins, Editor
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The Methodist Rural Fellowship

A fellowship of Methodist Ministers and laymen who are concerned with Methodism's responsibility toward creating and sustaining a Christian Culture for rural America.

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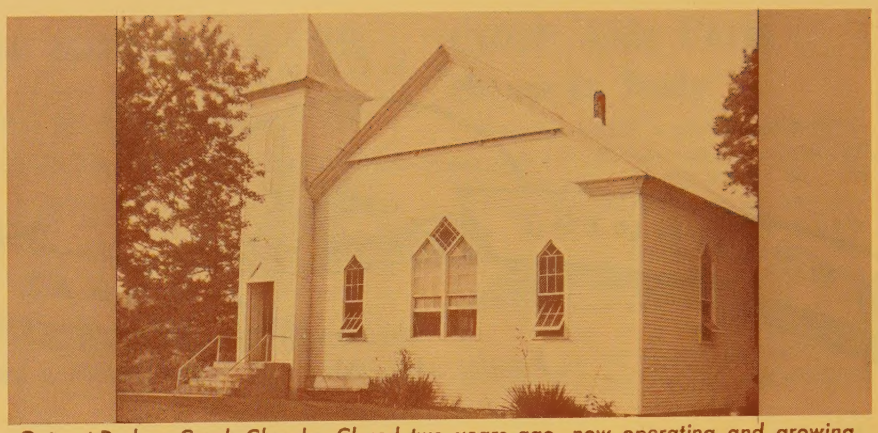
PLEASE always send us your change of address when you move.

What The Methodist Rural Fellowship Does

1. Seeks to enrich and dignify rural life.
2. Builds morale for town and country churches and pastors.
3. Provides means of sharing helpful ideas.
4. Offers opportunity for fellowship among pastors and laymen throughout World Methodism.
5. Undergirds the work of the conference town and country commission.



Outpost-Dodson Creek Church—Closed two years ago, now operating and growing.

EDITORIAL

Two recent facts give me cause for concern. According to recent news releases there is an alarming shortage of ministers in America. Without going into facts, figures, and comparisons, let's just state the case. It appears that the shortage will decrease further before it begins to increase.

The second fact that gives me cause for concern is the large number of churches that are being abandoned. With full realization that some of these should have been abandoned, since they have served their day and now the population has moved away and left them, I am still gravely concerned.

What is the answer to these serious problems? How can we stem the tide? Where do we go from here?

The First Answer

My answer to the first problem is a conviction—not a proven fact. At the same time it is challenged by many more astute minds than mine. In fact, I am not sure if **anyone** agrees with me! My feeling is that the answer lies not only in a definite call to preach and dedication to the task, but that it lies also in the area of financial security. With minimum salaries as low as they are in some conferences, this is easily understood. Those news sources which cite the statistics say that industry, with its guarantee of further schooling paid for by the company, and the high salaries after graduation are luring our finest young men into industry. Well, it is again the old chicken-or-egg question. Is it because these young men have no call to the ministry, or is it that they are afraid of what they might find for their families in a rural parish? My conviction is that it is both/and with the scales tilted a little toward the question of financial security.

The Second Answer

My answer to the second question is a proven fact **and** a conviction. To help fill the blank spaces during the minister shortage and at the same time help keep open some small churches that should not be closed, the station ministers in county seat and other towns can "adopt" a country church as an outpost.

If they are able to sell themselves on the idea, their next big problem will be to sell their official boards. I say it is a proven fact because the church on this page is just such a church.

Church Closed

Two years ago this church was closed. It was in need of paint, window panes were broken out, a pot-bellied stove stood in the center aisle, the building leaked, and in a run-down-at-the-heels condition. The total amount expended through the budget the last year it was open was less than $200—a lot less!

The D.S. granted me permission to try and open it. The Official Board agreed for me to give them a 9:30 a.m. service each Sunday. Within a few months we had 72 enrolled in Sunday school. During the first year we averaged 37 in the Sunday school and morning worship. We spent over $1,200 on the program and the building. The first year we received 12 new members, 11 of them on profession of faith. The second year (this year) we put on the Every Member Visitation and with just a few over twenty pledges underwrote the budget for the year which is over $1,200. This year we had several people to move away, but our enrollment is still 65 and we averaged 38 this conference year.

Not only is the building comfortable and newly painted inside and out, but it has a new heating system and now three new classrooms are being added.

At the last session of the annual conference another such church was about to be sold. I requested permission to divide the time granted for the one between the two. Accordingly, I have been preaching three times each Sunday and having the time of my life!

With this editorial we should be able to start a "Letters to Editor" column in the Bulletin!

J. E. H.

New Secretary Of Agriculture

Orville L. Freeman

The Secretary of Agriculture in the John F. Kennedy Administration, Orville L. Freeman, has long been a vigorous advocate of a strong farm program.

Mr. Freeman, who served two terms as Governor of Minnesota, has campaigned side-by-side with such farm program leaders as Senators Hubert Humphrey and Eugene McCarthy, of his state, and is known as a very forceful speaker.

President Kennedy's appointment of Mr. Freeman fulfills his campaign promise to select a Midwestern cabinet officer for agriculture. It also brings into his Administration a vigorous young (42) man who shares his general approach to solution of the farm problem.

The new Secretary is a strong supporter of cooperatives, of the family farm, and of using price supports to help get parity for farmers.

When Mr. Freeman became Governor, he appointed a commission of farm leaders and economists to learn how deep the depression had hit Minnesota farmers and how it was damaging the rural community. The staff was headed by Dr. Willard Cochrane, who later was Kennedy's farm adviser.

Mr. Freeman, an active member of the Augustana Lutheran Church, is also strongly in favor of rural electrification and access to more public power.

Henry A. McCanna
From March—April
Town & Country Church, 1961

Personal Note From Phillip F. Aylesworth

"I am currently on detail in the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture. I am working with Dr. Frank J. Welch, Assistant Secretary for Federal-States Relations.

Our liaison work with national rural church leaders continues uninterrupted, thanks to several persons in the Federal Extension Service who have offered assistance. Other Department personnel are also doing their share. I want to add a special word of appreciation to Ed Roche, Editor of the Extension Service Review for his assistance with this issue of the Notes.

I'm sure you appreciate this interest and support as much as I do. With our strong administration backing and these extra hands, we can look forward to strengthened working relationships."

T&C Institute at SMU June 26 - July 14

An examination of the church and community in areas of less than 10,000 population will be the theme of a well-planned Institute at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, this summer. Open to all concerned pastors and laymen, the Institute will meet Tuesday through Friday for three weeks. Dr. Franklin Rector of the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, will lecture on "Church Planning." Dr. Robert L. Skrabanek of Texas A & M will speak on "Sociology of T & C Areas." Rev. Marvin Judy of SMU will lecture on 'Motivation for Church and Ministry in T & C." Discussion groups, field trips and special events will round out a pleasant, air-conditioned institute. Registration is $25, and room and board $84, with some scholarships available. Write Marvin Judy, SMU, Dallas 22, Texas for more details or your Area T & C Office for a program and scholarship application.

"Town and Country" Everywhere

It is strange how the words "Town and Country" are catching on. As I drive over Missouri it appears on stores and advertising signs everywhere.

There's the "T & C Lumber Co." at St. Joseph. Springfield has a "T & C Gift Shop." They manufacture "T & C Shoes" in Sedalia and also have a "T & C Realty" there. Nevada has its "T & C Propane Gas" while St. Charles has a "T & C Carpet" establishment. St. Louis gets into the act with a new "T & C Shopping Mall," "T & C Cleaners," and even a municipality of 'Town and Country." I can eat at the "T & C Cafe" in Branson and stay overnight at the "T & C Motor Lodge" in Springfield. One can buy clothes at the "T & C Specialty Shop" in Versailles or at "Dean's T & C" shop in Columbia. Caruthersville has a "T & C Supply Co." handling plumbing materials. Seneca has its "T & C Regional Library." By the time I stop for gas at the "T & C Truck Stop" in Springfield, I'm not sure if I'm coming or going.

—Dan Schores in
Missouri T & C News

Did You Know?

At least 32,337 of the 38,350 local Methodist Church, and 5,744,398 of the 9,691,961 members of the church are in town and country areas (population under 10,000)

—Dr. Glenn F. Sanford

John Howes Appeals For Surplus Foods

The Rev. Dr. John Howes, professor of rural church at Wesley Theological Seminary here, has asked the U. S. Department of Agriculture to review its policy of denying surplus foods for school lunch programs to one-room schools.

A former school principal in rural Kentucky, Dr. Howes said his plea was prompted by the article, "Lunchtime at Little Bullskin School", in March issue of **Together.** Mrs. Howes once taught in a similar school.

He said the latest available figures show there are 23,965 one-room schools serving more than 400,000 pupils, who would tend to be in needier-than-average economic situations.

Under present regulations, the federal school lunch program can give surplus food only to those schools with kitchens and full-time cooks. Since 97 per cent of the one-room schools have electricity, Dr. Howes asserts that surplus food can be adequately used by schools with less equipment than specified in present regulations.

The professor is a member of Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

Lay Speaking On The Move In Missouri

Two sessions at the SW Conference Men's Retreat this summer were attended by nearly fifty men. Out of this appearance, the Area Director, Dan Schores, was invited to teach a training course on lay speaking October 9 for the Marshall District at Higginsville. 36 men attended the five hour "short course."

The Thayer Parish of nine churches in Oregon County held its own course on "The Art of Public Speaking" in an effort to train laymen who are providing services for the eight rural churches. Printed outlines of the course helped make it a success.

Dunklin County in the Poplar Bluff District had a course on lay speaking as part of their annual leadership school, November 20–22. In this county lay speakers have been active in providing extra worship services at the smaller churches.

An indispensible tool for the lay speaker is THE LAY SPEAKER'S HANDBOOK by Charles Stuck, available from the Methodist Publishing House or the author, Box 565, Jonesboro, Arkansas. Other materials are available from the General Board of Lay Activities.

CONNIE RUSSELL ELECTED CHAIRMAN DEPT. OF T & C OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

Miss Russell

Miss L. Cornelia Russell is the newly-elected chairman of the Department of Town and Country Church for this triennium. She is executive secretary of Town and Country Work in the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions of The Methodist Church.

Miss Russell, better known to her friends and co-workers as "Connie," is a native of Nashville, Tennessee. After business experience as manager and bookkeeper in a commercial firm, she continued her education by attending George Peabody College for Teachers, Vanderbilt University, and Scarritt College, where she received her B.A. degree in 1945. Following this she spent one year in Chattanooga, Tennessee, as director of Christian education at St. Andrew's Methodist Church.

Serves in Dale Hollow

From 1946 to 1953, Miss Russell served as director of Christian education in the Dale Hollow Larger Parish in Tennessee, which included churches of three denominations, Christian, Methodist, and United Presbyterian in the U.S.A., and which now includes the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

She did graduate work at Garrett Biblical Institute and New York University, from which institution she received her M.A. degree in 1954. While studying at New York University she served as assistant director of Alma Mathews House, a residence hall for girls, and as director of youth work at the First Congregational Church in River Edge, New Jersey. She was elected to her present position in January, 1955, after a short period of service, as coordinator of the Holston Valley Rural Work in southwest Virginia and eastern Tennessee.

Administrative Responsibility

Miss Russell has administrative responsibility for more than eighty town and country projects, which includes work among Indian Americans. More than seventy of these are rural church and community areas in which women are assigned to cooperative parishes and/or geographic areas to work with every agency and organization in the community concerned with enriching and improving individual and group life.

Miss Russell is a member of the Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work of The Methodist Church and the National Conference on Social Welfare. She was commissioned a Deaconess of The Methodist Church in 1950.—From March - April Town and Country Church.

Blue Hill Nebraska Pastor Aids His 4-Town Parish

A gift of some hamsters to Larry Boyer, 13, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Lawrence Boyer, has resulted in a new commercial product utilizing a raw material that is available in abundance in these parts—corn cobs.

The Rev. Mr. Boyer found that there was no suitable bedding on the market for his son's new charges.

This led to some experimenting and once he'd found suitable material for the hamster's cage he decided there would be a market for this material and proceeded from there.

ECONOMIC NEEDS

Rev. Boyer believes the church should look out for its members' spiritual needs and economic needs where possible and looked at his development of the pet bedding as a possible way to aid in the economic needs of his parish.

Boyer's background is unique for the ministry—he was an industrial engineer for six years before becoming a minister.

The first step was to check with Harold Wagner of Roseland.

Would he be interested in making and marketing a product if a suitable market could be found?

Wagner was interested and the two men started from there. Boyer, who has no financial interest in the project, helped design a suitable package, had the trade name registered and worked with Wagner to set up a test sales campaign.

To date, it appears that the product is being well accepted by owners of hamsters, cavies, guinea pigs and white rats and the two men anticipate working on major outlets for their product.

NATURAL BEDDING

The product is a mixture of ground corn cobs, corn sheaves, cedar chips and cedar oil. The cedar chips and oil are mostly for the benefit of the human owners of these pets, the two men explained. The bedding is liked by the pets as it provides natural type bedding and resting material.

Boyer and Wagner hope this product will aid the farmers in a small way and also provide employment for persons living in Boyer's parish. They call it "Pet-Pillo."

It includes Methodist churches in Ayr, Blue Hill, Pauline and Roseland.

Executive Secretary Urges Attendance at T&C Meetings

A full schedule of summer activities sponsored by the South Central Jurisdiction of The Methodist Church has been announced by the Rev. Dr. Virgil D. Morris of Oklahoma City, executive secretary fo the jurisdictional council.

A Supply Pastors School will be held at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Tex., in two terms: the first term, June 12—July 13, and the second term, from July 17 to Aug. 17.

A Pastors School is scheduled for the National Methodist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., July 17—Aug. 11.

A recreational workshop has already been held (April 19–26) at Camp Egan, Tahlequah, Okla.

Dr. Morris said that the jurisdiction is also urging Methodist attendance from its Commission on Town and Country Work at two interdenominational events: an Institute on Church in Town and Country at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, June 26—July 4, and the Southwest Town and Country Convocation at Lakeview Assembly in Palestine, Texas, Oct. 17–19.

Charge Cooperation In Maine

The Rev. Royce N. Coan, pastor of the Machias, Jacksonville, Wesley Charge has announced a **Proposal for Progress** in line with the Quadrennial theme "Jesus Christ is Lord." Basically the plan is a method of closer cooperation in administering church affairs between the Machias and Jacksonville churches.

The proposal provides for one Quarterly Conference, one official board (though it might meet separately) and the five required commissions all meeting jointly with representatives from each church. The Parsonage Committee is a Quarterly Conference elected joint committee. The Trustees remain separate except for cooperating on the parsonage. Membership on various joint committees is 1/3 Jacksonville and 2/3 Machias, but chairmanships are equally divided between the two churches. Further, the number of different offices one person may hold is carefully limited.

The plan is well suited to the opportunities of small churches and reflects a growing tendency toward fuller co-operation between churches. Any persons desiring a full copy of the **Proposal for Progress** should write to Rev. Royce N. Coan, Machias, Maine.

Maine T&C Commission Pushes MRF

(The following appeared in the Commission's Newsletter)

It has been a matter of considerable dismay to learn that there are only five members of the Methodist Rural Fellowship in the state of Maine. Surely there are ten times that number of persons who are interested in this fellowship of Methodist ministers and laymen who are concerned with Methodism's responsibility toward creating and sustaining a Christian culture in rural America. For only $2.00 a year you get the Methodist Rural Fellowship Bulletin which is an attractive, 12 page paper with increasingly good coverage of Maine.

Send your membership fee of $2.00 (or more, if you wish) to C. Edwin Murphy, Box 208, Lexington, Nebraska. For a sample copy of a recent Bulletin, write Robert S. Brightman, Woodland, Maine.

Hints and Helps From Here and There

Help From The Lutherans

A beautifully done and most helpful brochure has just come to my attention. It is entitled, "Planting the Cross on the Contour". The brochure deals with a conversation between a rural minister and a county agent. The entire conversation is based on the experience of rural pastors and 35 scientific studies on "How Farm People Accept New Ideas."

The booklet was published in 1957 by the Division of American Missions, National Lutheran Council, 327 South La Salle Street, Chicago 4, Illinois. The principles laid down in this brochure will be good in 1987!

J. E. H.

Church Enrichment Crusade in Town and Country

Are you interested in enriching your town and country church? Some time ago the Town and Country Commission in the Holston Conference, in cooperation with the Board of Evangelism, developed what it called "The Church Enrichment Crusade". The effort is designed for stations and circuits. A four-color folder explaining the program and its variations is still available for 10¢ from Box 1178, Johnson City, Tennessee.

Rural Church Scoreboard

Dr. James W. Sells, Executive of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, has a Rural Church Scoreboard in print. The scoreboard is set up by years and is intended for use by discussion groups and committees. This major question

(Continued on Page 9)

TWELVE CHURCHES HONORED FOR SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

3 Receive Top Awards

Methodist churches received 12 of 25 community service awards presented during the Iowa Christian Rural Institute, Feb. 6—including three of five top citations.

Receiving Award of Merit-Program of Distinction citations were West St. Charles, Washta, and Hornick. The St. Charles Church, near Charles City, was entered in the 101-200 member category, Washta in the 201-300 grouping, and Hornick in the 301-500 class.

The award to Hornick paced a Methodist sweep of all three awards in that division. Klemme received the Award of Merit-Honorable Mention, and the Award of Merit went to Quimby.

In addition to Klemme, Honorable Mention awards went to Good Hope and Holstein in the 101-200 member, and 500-plus categories, respectively.

Receiving the Award of Merit in addition to Quimby, by class, were:

1-100 members—Liberty
101-200 members—South Marion, Unionville, and Giard
500-plus members—Britt

Pastors of the three top award churches are the Rev. Earl R. Streyffeler, St. Charles; the Rev. Max Paige, Washta; and the Rev. A. Keith Hauser, Hornick.

The award to the West St. Charles church came after two successful years of honorable mention citations. Unionville received its third award since the Rev. Banks Doggett became pastor, having been honored also in 1956 and 1958.

It was the second time in three years that Methodist churches have received a majority of the top awards. Other top awards this year went to the Pierson Christian Church in the 1-100 category and Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Albert City in the 500-plus grouping.

"No other report so truly indicated the service aspect of the church in the community," leaders said in discussing the Hornick citation.

St. Charles was cited for a continuous "solid and enduring program," as well as many church leaders "who are active in community affairs."

Washta's report was 'characterized by a realistic evaluation and concern with the future." "There was evidence of a deliberate and successful integration of function so as to serve as a community church."

Iowa State University officials noted with interest that four of the five churches receiving the program of distinction awards are located in three adjacent counties in northwestern Iowa.

Prairie Hill Texas Church Adopts Lord's Acre Program, '61-'62

The Official Board of the Prairie Hill Methodist Church, together with the congregation, recently voted to adopt the Lord's Acre Program for the coming year. This action followed presentation of the program by the Executive Secretary of the Town and Country Commission, Rev. Edward Otwell, of Cleburne, Texas.

Rev. Otwell outlined the program which will begin immediately and showed film slides depicting the success of the project in other areas.

Mr. J. D. Webb is chairman of the Official Board and Rev. Oley Wilson is Pastor.

Nebraska T&C Commission Works on On Declining Areas

The Nebraska Town and Country Commission has undertaken a program of strategy in declining rural areas in which are to be held four annual Workshops each year in strategic parts of the state. These Workshops are designed, first, to transmit to local communities the findings of the state, regional, and national bodies that relate to rural church affairs; second, to consider possible application of the findings to local communities; and, third, to have the Workshops serve as sounding boards to guide the Commission on Town and Country work in further program development.

In order that no time is wasted in getting these Workshops underway, the Commission determined the location of four such projects to be held during the Conference year. The first one was held last September 12th and 13th in the Litchfield area, the second was held in the Lakeside area on November 26th and 27th, the third was held in conjunction with the "Rurban Life Conference" in Lincoln, and the fourth on April 25th and 26th in the Plainview area.

LaRoy Seaver, chairman of the Town and Country Commission, is giving general direction to these Workshops. Working closely with him are the two Mobile Pastors Earl Reed, of Lakeside, and Leon Foster, of Litchfield.

Share Your Bulletin With A Friend

Meet some of our Town and Country

(Editor's Note: Since the last issue of the Bulletin an effort has been made to collect photographs, personal data and other facts about several of our Town and County Commission officers. Of course, many of those contacted did not reply. Others did not send personal sketches, some left off the photos. But from what we received here is "Meet the Commissions".)

MINNESOTA T&C COMMISSION

Rev. Mr. Foster

The Rev. William F. Foster is executive secretary of the Commission. Bill was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1922. From 1941–'45 he served as an electrician's mate on a destroyer in the USNR. He received his A.B. from Cornell College in 1947 and his S.T.B. from Boston in 1950. He was a member of the North Iowa Conference from 1950–1956 when he joined the Minnesota Conference.

Presently Bill is pastor at Afton, Minnesota and part-time student in sociology and philosophy at the University of Minnesota, working toward his M.A. He should have been awarded his degree just before you read this article.

MINNESOTA Town and Country was the topic of discussion over coffee when MRF secretary Don Haarup (left) and rural pastor Alice Engelbrettson compared ideas with Minnesota Town and Country chairman Harold Clark (holding cup) and Northwest Minnesota district superintendent Ira B. Allen. Pastors Haarup, Engelbrettson and Clark each have two point charges. Of the 34 charges in the Minnesota Northwest district there are three 3-point charges and fourteen 2-point charges.

Foster's thesis for his degree is entitled: "A Descriptive Analysis of Parish Participation and Facilities Among the Methodist Churches of Minnesota". Although a long, drawn-out title, the thesis will deal with attendance participation related to worship. Among other things it examines the recommended square footage standards of the Board of Education with regard to "High Participation" and "Low Participation" churches. An eventual result of the study will be setting up a Church Building Standard for the Conference.

Rev. Don Haarup

The Secretary of the Methodist Rural Fellowship in Minnesota is the Rev. Don Haarup, Glenwood, Minn. On May 7 Mr. Haarup used "The Land and The Soil" as his sermon title for Rural Life Sunday. Don assumed the secretary post in June of 1960, replacing Bill Foster of Afton, who became executive secretary of the Town and Country Commission. Minnesota ranks 9th among the states in the number of subscriptions to the MRF Bulletin.

The Rev. Harold Clark, chairman of the Minnesota Conference Town and Country Commission, was born in Wenatchee, Washington and grew up in River Falls, Wisconsin. Harold is 46 and has four children ages eight to fourteen. The Clark family is a "camping family".

Harold attended University of Minnesota, Duke University, St. Olaf University, Hamline and Boston Universities. He is the Minnesota Conference representative on the North Central Jurisdiction Town and Country Commission, organized at Sycamore, Illinois in January, 1961. He has been a member of the Commission since 1953.

Commission Plans for Mobile Ministry Unit

Favorable support has been given to establishing a mobile ministry unit for the North Woods area of Minnesota. This project will be listed as a Conference Advance Special, with the hope of having it in operation by 1962.

Small churches are now getting special attention from the Commission by means of surveys and study groups. Under the direction of the Chairman, Harold Clark, the commission has developed a conference-wide parsonage standards program. By 1962 the University of Minnesota will begin a study of rural religious life of the state.

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE COMMISSION

Rev. Mr. McSwain

The Rev. Harold McSwain is executive secretary of the Memphis Conference Town and Country Commission. Harold was born and raised in Memphis and spent two years overseas in World War II. He received his B.S. degree from Lambuth College in 1949; M.A. from George Peabody College in 1950; and his B.D. from Perkins School of Theology, S.M.U., in 1953.

He was pastor of East Jackson, Tennessee Methodist Church during the time of its construction and was pastor at Parsons, Tennessee immediately before being appointed as executive secretary. He not only serves as executive secretary of the Commission, but is professor of town and country work at Lambuth College. He has held these two positions for four and a half years.

Harold is married and has three children, 10, 8, and 5.

Rev. Mr. Stavely

The Rev. John E. Stavely is Chairman of the Memphis Town and Country Commission. He has been in his present pastorate at Finley, Tennessee for five years. He transferred from the Tennessee Conference in 1956. John received his B.A. from George Peabody College in Nashville and his B.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Theology.

From 1958–1960 John was District Secretary of town and country work and was president of the Memphis Conference Methodist Rural Fellowship for two years.

Do You Know About It?

Do you know about the John Louis Kesler Circulating Library for rural ministers. Write Vanderbilt University, Divinity School, Library, Nashville, Tennessee.

Commission Officers--Look At Their Programs!

MISSOURI AREA T&C COMMISSION

Rev. Mr. Schores

Rev. Daniel Schores, Director, Columbia, Missouri. Serving all three conferences in the Missouri Episcopal Area (two conferences after reorganization in May, 1961), the Area Director works full-time to promote T & C work in cooperation with conference commissions.

Dan came to this position in Oct. 1958 after serving as pastor of an Ozark rural parish, district secretary of T & C, conference and Area commission secretaries. He is currently working on a Master's Degree in rural sociology, and is also executive director fo a state-wide survey of Methodism during the current year.

Area program: 16 district T & C secretaries are trained in local promotion of Lord's Acre, Group Ministry, representing T & C at district meetings, and showing rural films to local congregations; expenses are paid for their work. The area office helps coordinate work of the conference commissions and represents T & C on the bishop's staff.

Specific programs sponsored by the Area office include a local church evaluation program, lay speaking, leadership training schools in rural areas, Group Ministry and parish formation, stewardship education, district charge arrangement planning, institutes, film and literature library, and surveys.

Two unusual workshops were held for Missouri church leadership during the past year, "Ministering to Resort Communities," and "Church and Community Development" (the latter in cooperation with other denominations and the Univ. of Missouri).

ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE

Rev. Mr. Odom

Rev. Bill Odom, Senath, Missouri is chairman. Previous experience in T & C work includes being district T & C secretary for the Poplar Bluff district, conference commission secretary - treasurer and at present is director for the Dunklin County Group Ministry in Missouri's bootheel. He has been chairman since June 1960 and on the Commission for five years. Married, he has two children.

Rev. Mr. Mangum

Rev. Glen Mangum, Hillsboro, Missouri. Glen has been district T & C secretary for the Farmington District for four years, past director of the Jefferson County Group Ministry and still active in it. He was the "T & C Minister of the Year—1960" for the St. Louis Conference because of his leadership in the Group Ministry, church extension in the county, and for guiding the Hillsboro church from a weak Federated-type to a strong Methodist congregation. He has been secretary since last June.

Recently he was elected chairman of the Area (Missouri) T & C Commission for the remainder of the quadrennium.

Conference program: Sponsored a series of four "T & C Institutes" last summer to point up needs across the conference, instrumental in getting Conference Parsonage standards established, have helped establish two new Group Ministries in the past year, and makes good use of five district secretaries who cooperate with the full-time Area director in Lord's Acre promotion, etc.

SOUTHWEST MISSOURI CONFERENCE

Rev. Mr. White

Rev. Richard C. White, Bolivar, Missouri. Dick is extremely active in organized T & C work being the director of the Polk County Group Ministry, Nevada District T & C secretary and chairman of the conference commission. Practicing what he advocates he accepted an associated rural church on with his county seat appointment and has shared leadership with surrounding smaller churches. He was elected chairman last June.

Rev. Mr. Hood

Rev. Robert Hood, Seneca, Missouri. Pastor of a town-rural parish along the Oklahoma border, Bob was elected secretary of the conference commission last June. He also serves on the Area T & C Commission.

Conference Program: Sponsored a series of five "District T & C Institutes" last fall reaching over 800 persons across the conference; hold an annual selection of the "Circuit of the Year," "Church of the Year," and "T & C Minister of the Year" awards; have sent delegates to Jurisdictional and national T & C conferences; use district secretaries to show films, promote program and distribute literature on district level. Four Group Ministry projects are within the bounds of the conference in addition to several special rural projects. Two deaconesses are involved in these activities.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE

Rev. Mr. Vancil

Rev. Allen Vancil, Edina, Missouri. As chairman of the conference commission, director of the Knox County Group Ministry, pastor of five town and country churches and secretary for the Area T & C Commission, Allen has much to do. His past experience includes serving in the Clark County Larger Parish and as district secretary for T & C. By using his private plane he manages to squeeze in state, jurisdictional and national meetings.

Rev. Mr. Fleer

Rev. Gilbert Fleer, Fayette, Missouri. Gil was elected secretary of the conference commission in August 1960 and is presently Professor of Religious Education and T & C Work at Central College, Fayette, Missouri. He has served rural pastorates before accepting the teaching position, where he now directs student pastors in their work.

Conference Program: A major project of the past year has been the adopting of official Parsonage Standards in cooperation with other conference boards; a series of "T & C Institutes" were held in late fall of 1959; established a new "District Church of the Year Award" this current year and will recognize the "blue ribbon" conference winner from among this group; sent delegates to a Jurisdictional Workshop last fall.

J. W. Walton Dies

Mr. J. W. Walton, chairman of the Missouri Area Town and Country Commission, died on January 31.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE, CENTRAL JURISDICTION

Rev. Mr. McTeer

The Rev. J. Constantine McTeer, pastor of the Little Rock Charge, is the Secretary of the Town and Country Commission of the S.C. Conference. Mr. Constantine is a graduate of Calflin College, Orangeburg, S. C. and attended Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta. He has also attended several town and country seminars at Gammon, now the Interdenomination Theological Center. The Rev. Roy C. Conner is the Conference Chairman of the Commission on Town and Country Work. (He has promised us a photograph for the next issue.)

TOWN AND COUNTRY WORK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The Rev. Mr. McTeer makes the following report on their work in South Carolina: The work in town and country is jointly sponsored by the Commission on Missions and Town and Country. In a meeting on April 7, 1961 of the Convocation of Boards and Commissions, a program of study and implementing the Larger Parish Plan was recommended to the Conference. The Commission is also ready to study population shifts and migrations, and to establish churches and chapels where needed.

The group set a goal of $100,000 through advance mission giving for this quadrennium to implement such a program.

CENTRAL NEW YORK COMMISSION

The Rev. William R. Swales, son of the Rev. Harold Swales, D.S. of the Syracuse District, is the Executive Secretary of the Central New York Conference Town and Country Commission. He is the pastor of the Breesport and North Chemung Methodist Churches. He has served town and country churches in Central New York and Pennsylvania since his graduation from Boston University School of Theology in 1953.

Bill is presently a member of the Board of Directors of the Rural Church Institute of the New York State Council of Churches and has been a delegate to the Town and Country Convocations held at York, Pa., and Wichita, Kansas. He has just returned from a preaching mission among the people of the San Carlos Rural Center in Villa Quesada, Costa Rica. He is married to the former Joan West of North Syracuse. They have two children: Sandra, 5; and Stephen, 2.

The Rev. Robert J. McCune, pastor of the Homer Avenue church in Cortland, N. Y., is the Chairman of the Town and Country Commission of the Central New York Conference.

Bob was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., and is a graduate of Boston University School of Theology. He has served in the conference since 1953. For three years—1957–1960, he was Executive Secretary of the Cortland County Council of Churches and Chaplain to the Protestant students at the State University College of Education in Cortland. He has been chairman of the commission since 1958. Bob is married to the former Alice Romig and they have four children: Nancy, 6; James, 4; David, 2; and Cynthia, 1.

PROGRAM, CENTRAL NEW YORK

During the year the Commission has been reviewing some of the means by which the Methodist Church might serve more of the needs of people living in mobility. Governor Rockefeller has recently indicated that 85% of the residents of the state are now classified as urban. However, many of the churches are located in communities of less than 2500 population.

In cooperation with the district superintendents, the conference board of missions and the minimum salary commission, the Town and Country Commission is examining the possibility of various parish alignments and realignments. In order to determine the need for such a program the Geneva District has engaged in a survey under the direction of Dr. Herbert Stotts. In addition the Commission has sent a questionnaire to the pastors asking them to indicate their willingness to serve in a larger parish, larger charge, or group ministry. Out of 115 returned the majority indicate they would be willing to serve in such a charge.

In order to insure an adequate ministry to Methodists in every corner of the conference the following minimum standards to be met by any church wishing to attain station status were adopted by the 1960 session of the Annual Conference:

"a. Pastoral support which more than satisfies minimum salary requirements. (station churches should not require continuing minimum support)

b. A membership and constituency which assures a pastoral work load. In the case of rapidly growing areas—this work load should be attainable.

c. By becoming a station, no church shall deprive any nearby churches of the chance to obtain the services of a fully qualified minister.

d. A Committee from the Town & Country Commission will be available to the District Superintendents to aid in a study of situations desiring station status."

The following recommendations, regarding the administration of Town and Country churches, were also accepted by the Annual Conference:

"1. We recommend that every student serving a charge and every supply pastor, not fully ordained, be assigned a pastor-counselor. This pastor-counselor shall be a Conference member whose personal and professional qualities fit him as an advisor to students and supplies. This is to be implemented by the District Superintendent after consultation with the pastors involved.

2. We recommend that this Annual Conference authorize each District to set up one or more parishes following the realignment suggestions found in the Brewer Report. (this to be done only after careful study and consultation with the churches involved.)

3. We recommend that the Town & Country Commission be authorized to poll the Conference Members inquiring as to their willingness to work in a Larger Charge, a Larger Parish, a Group Ministry, or some other form of cooperative endeavor."

Memphis MRF Has Annual Banquet

The Memphis Conference Methodist Rural Fellowship had its annual MRF breakfast on Thursday, June 1 during the session of the annual conference.

Mr. Red Bond, Conference Lay Leader, spoke on the topic, "The Need For Revolutionary Attitude Toward Town and Country Problems on the Part of Laymen." The Rev. Dr. G. Ross Freeman for the Commission on Town and Country Work on Thursday to the Annual Conference on a similar topic: "The Need for Revolutionary Attitude Toward Town and Country Problems on the Part of Ministers."

Leadership Training Opportunities for Town and Country Ministers at Land-Grant Colleges

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.	June 12–14
A & T College, Greensboro, N. C.	June 13–16
Texas A & M College, College Station, Tex.	June 19–21
Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.	June 26–July1
Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.	July 3–7
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.	July 10–14
Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.	July 13–15
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.	July 17–28
Oregon State College, Corvallis, Ore.	Oct. 9–12
Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kans.	
Montana State College, Bozeman, Mont.	
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.	Dates
University of Maine, Orono, Me.	Not
University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.	Available
University of New Hampshire, Durham, N. H.	At
University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt.	Press
Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.	Time
Alabama A & M College, Normal, Ala.	
Tennessee A & I State University, Nashville, Tenn.	

Methodist News

Great Days Ahead

A 10-year campaign to build 977 new Methodist churches in nine southeastern states was launched Feb. 28 in Jacksonville, Fla., at a meeting of the executive committee of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Council.

Bishop Paul N. Garber of Richmond, Va., council president, said the building program would cost more than 50 million dollars.

The jurisdiction, largest of six in the U. S., now has 2,709,000 members in 12,161 churches. Plans call for boosting membership to three million by 1964.

Church 'Alive' in Cuba

The Methodist Church in Cuba is very much alive, despite the evacuation of all but one of its missionaries. Gaps opened by the withdrawal of missionaries have already been closed with Cuban leadership, according to the Division of World Missions of the Board of Missions.

Some 85 conference pastors and numerous lay workers are carrying on the work of the church, as it was intended when missionaries first set out to establish an indigenous church in Cuba 60 years ago.

Dr. James E. Ellis and Miss Marian Derby, secretaries for Latin American countries of the Board of Missions, are studying possibilities of returned missionaries being transferred to other countries. Some are already at work in other tasks, such as helping the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief (MCOR) with the program for Cuban refugees that is now underway, in cooperation with the Florida Conference.

Students Take Stand

The Michigan Methodist Student Movement Council, meeting April 15 in Big Rapids, voted to commend Gov. John B. Swainson on his restraining the Michigan State Police from showing and publicizing the film strip, "Communism on the Map" and the film, "Operation Abolition." The council also took a stand opposing "the techniques of distortion" used in those films and recommended that neither be shown without an accurate presention of both sides. The council includes representatives from 13 Michigan campuses.

Pastors Killed in Angola

Eight Methodist pastors are reported dead in the month-old civil war in Angola. According to the Division of World Missions, the pastors, all Africans, were killed by either Portuguese civilians or military forces after hurried trials. At least half of the denomination's 150 African pastors, the Division said, are reported either in prison, have fled with their people, or have been killed. Reports say that many Methodist churches and schools have been completely destroyed or badly damaged.

Follow Wesley in Ohio

An unconventional kind of evangelism will be practiced this summer by Ohio Methodist pastors. Fifty-two pastors met recently with Bishop Hazen G. Werner for briefing on the unique mission. They have volunteered to preach in the open at county fairs, state parks, in drive-ins, on street corners and church and courthouse steps.

The plan of open-air preaching was followed by the spiritual father of Methodism, John Wesley, in England, and the early circuit riders.

To the Ohio pastors, Bishop Werner said: "Preach to people where they are and how they are. Forget your conventional terms and talk straight out to people."

Duke to Admit Negroes

Duke University, Durham, N. C., has announced that it will admit Negroes to its graduate and professional schools next September. A resolution passed by the board of trustees said "qualified applicants may be admitted to the degree programs in the graduate and professional schools of the university . . . without regard to race, creed or national origin."

Worth Quoting

"Religion to comfort but not to challenge is our besetting dilemma. A fire on the hearth to warm our bodies is of greater concern to us than a fire in our hearts by which the hearts of others may be strangely warmed. . . . It is comfort or a cause. It is a sedative of soft living or the strength-giving commitment to stewardship. It is the innocence of doing nothing versus all of life committed to a cause." —**Dr. Edwin A. Briggs**, Chicago, executive secretary of the Section of Stewardship and Finance of the Board of Lay Activities, in a recent address in Highland Park Church, Dallas.

Policy on Retired Pastors

"No minister shall be reassigned to an appointment which he is serving at the time of his retirement."

This statement of policy, a reaffirmation of a position first taken several years ago, was unanimously adopted April 6 by the Council of Bishops in Boston. The bishops conceded that technically, under their appointive power, a bishop "may assign a retired minister to any church where he feels the minister can serve acceptably."

The principle upon which the earlier decision was based, and which continues to govern this 1961 decision, is that the bishops are unwilling "by indirection to circumvent the clear intent of the General Conference in the use of retired preachers."

Hints and Helps From Here and There

(Continued from Page 5)

of this scoreboard is: "How Can You Know Where You Want To Go, Until You Know Where You Are?"

A copy is available from Dr. Sells, Wesley Memorial Building, Atlanta 3, Ga.

The Church School Superintendent in The Circuit Church

A leaflet, "The Church School Superintnedent in The Circuit Church" is available free from Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee. This was written by two circuit riders in the Holston Conference, Sam N. Varnell, Jr. and James E. Hankins.

Suggestions From Phil Aylesworth

More Food for Needy People

Distribution of food to needy people is illustrated in Photo Series No. 51 of the Office of Information, Department of Agriculture. Write to the Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. for a copy of the leaflet.

Ethical Issues

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (Minn.) inserted a resolution of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S. in the March 3 Congressional Record. Entitled, Ethical Issues in the International Age of Agriculture, the resolution includes the concerns of religious and other voluntary organizations in the distribution of food in economic development and raising the levels of life of people around the world.

Programs of Relief and Reconstruction

The January issue of Information Service, publication of the Bureau of Research and Survey, National Council of Churches, is devoted to an interpretation of "Overseas Programs of Relief and Reconstruction, Voluntary and Governmental." You will find this an excellent capsule of voluntary agencies' activities and the Food-For-Peace Program.

Soil Conservation

Two addresses—The Eternal Question and the Trilogy of American Conservation—were given before the American Society of Soil Conservation several years ago. We can obtain 1,000 copies of the reserve supply if you can use them. These are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dean of Agricultural Writers To Retire

By R. C. HOLMES

Tribute to a Layman:

I have just learned that J. Francis Cooper of Gainesville, Agricultural Editor of the University of Florida for 36 years, is retiring April 30. In all the leading newspapers and magazines of the state he has been hailed as the dean of Florida agricultural writers.

But there is another phase of Mr. Cooper's life which more Florida Methodists should know about. Having known Francis Cooper for many years, and having served as his pastor, I want to say that he is one of the most faithful, humble, effective laymen I have ever known.

As a raiser of church funds, he is the most successful worker I have ever known. People readily respond to his solicitations because they know he is the first to give of his means and his service.

Many Accomplishments

Very few men, if any, have to their credit as many special accomplishments for their church and community as Mr. Cooper. I want to mention just a few: He has headed practically all of the important financial campaigns for his local church in recent years. He led in obtaining funds for the commodious Boy Scout building on the church grounds, having been a longtime Scout leader. On his own he obtained enough money to erect a cottage at our Leesburg Youth Camp in its beginning. He has certainly gone beyond the call of duty in managing the church's Seagle Hall Cooperative in Gainesville. For 12 years he was a member of our Conference Board of Education, and a church trustee for a long time.

Fosdick Library Goes to Seminary Students Abroad

The Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Minister Emeritus of the Riverside Church, New York City, has made a gift of his entire library of theological and resource books to two overseas theological seminaries.

The Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico and Dondi Seminary in Angola, West Africa, will be the recipients, at his request, of hundreds of Dr. Fosdick's "working" books from which he prepared his sermons for more than fifty years. The library, estimated at some 1,400 volumes, will be divided between the two seminaries.

A casual request for "a few books" for overseas seminary students brought Dr. Fosdick's response. The gift of these books by one of the nation's most prominent Protestant ministers will provide invaluable resource material to theological students in two hemispheres.

"There are too many books to list in detail," Dr. Fosdick stated modestly. However, he cited an entire set of the "International Critical Commentary" and other biblical commentaries; four volumes of Hasting's Dictionary of the Bible;" four volumes of the "Encyclopedia Biblica;" and dozens of books on the life and teachings of Jesus.

In addition are biographies of many religious leaders and several sets of literary classics, including the works of Tennyson and Emerson. Many of the books are first editions autographed for him by their authors.

Dr. Fosdick served as minister of the Riverside Church from 1925–1946, when he was named Minister Emeritus. He celebrated his 83rd birthday in May.

Small Town Problems

"Can Our Small Towns Survive?" This question is answered by a 7-page paper put out by the U. S. Rural Development Program. Following are several pertinent excerpts from this paper:

"Everyone knows that many small towns haven't survived in the past. Many thousands of small communities in the United States have virtually disappeared over the past 100 years. . . ."

" . . . many small towns have not survived in the past—many will not survive or grow in the future."

"Towns that died in the past didn't act to replace a dying industry with a new one. The workers moved on to other booming areas. . . . Unfortunately, it is the young who leave and this compounds the small town growth problem for the future."

"Many small towns are expected to show population gains from 1950–1960. But these will probably be towns chiefly located within the influence of larger city centers. County seats and university towns are also expected to show up with gains. A majority of the small towns under 1,000 are expected to remain static in population or show some decline."

"But where small towns are located within a region determines growth. . . . Small towns near larger cities (10 to 30 miles) have better prospects for growth than do small communities which are more isolated. . . ."

"Some of the reasons why industry favors small town locations . . . included: Desire to avoid congestion, . . . untapped labor, . . . desire to avoid large city competition for labor, and availability of large plant sites at reasonable costs. . . . More leisurely living, friendliness, . . . small town desire for and interest in industry, . . . become 'part of a community', . . . life was too short to spend so much time commuting to and from work."

"What does all this mean to small towns that want to do something about economic growth? It means that most small communities will have an opportunity to obtain some kind of new job producing activities."

"Small towns in rural areas face the toughest job. . . . Here the roadblocks to growth may include isolation from larger population centers, nonavailability of skills . . . the real hope for these communities lies in the direction of small industries based on local resources and markets and development of latent tourist and travel potentials."

If copies of the complete article are desired, write the National Rural Development Program News Editor, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

"ONE CHURCH UNDER THREE ROOFS"....

CORNER CHAPEL, Readfield

Maine town and country churches may look with pride at and perhaps learn some lessons from the significant dvelopments in the work in Readfield.

A year ago there were three separate churches—one at Kent's Hill, one at Readfield Corner and one at East Readfield. These three churches were served by two pastors. The Rev. Alice Hart, living in Hallowell, and the Rev. David Bell, living at Winthrop. Beginning last summer, services for the three churches were united and held in the Jesse Lee Memorial Methodist Church, East Readfield. Due to increased attendance and interest, the three churches voted last fall to hold union services in Kent's Hill, and to have Church School in Readfield Corner during the school year, and to continue holding summer services in the Jesse Lee Memorial Church.

UNIFICATION A REALITY

The Official Boards, the Commissions, and the treasuries have all been unified, although separate trustees are maintained. The parsonage is now being renovated in preparation for the appointment of a full-time pastor at this annual conference. In a successful Every Member Visitation, a budget of over $11,000 was subscribed.

MR. BELL SAYS

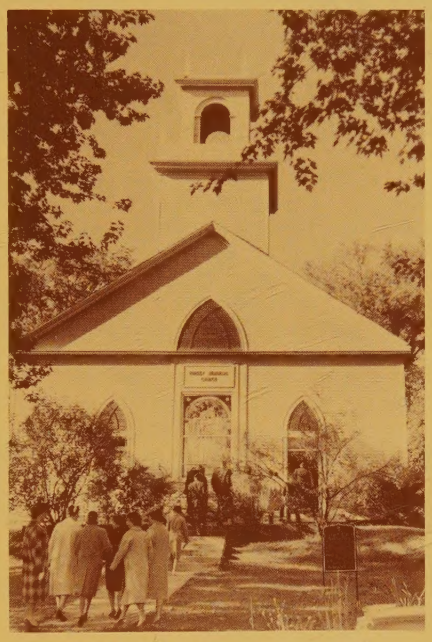
Talk about a more unified program has been heard since the consolidated school was built five years ago. In January, at each of the three quarterly conferences persons were elected to serve on a parish or circuit council. The first action of the council was to set up a joint membership training class.

Since the East Readfield church is the oldest Methodist Church in New England, and in such a beautiful location and setting, the council suggested that we hold union summer services there.

"About the middle of August the council met to decide where we would go from there. From the start of the meeting one group urged a continued form of union. With enthusiasm high and time short the council voted unamiously to form the union before the second week in September. With the aid of the district superintendent and the town and country commission, a plan was formed whereby Mrs. Hart and David Bell would serve as co-pastors until annual conference.

MISS NIXON VISITS

In October, Miss Rosemary Nixon,



TORSEY MEMORIAL, Kent's Hill

former rural worker in the West Washington group ministry, and now with the Department of Missionary Personnel of the Woman's Division, spent a week in Readfield. Some of Miss Nixon's reactions to the united church program follow:

"The single thing that impressed me most was the friendliness of the people. I was also very much impressed with the quality of lay leadership as demonstrated in the Every Member Visitation.

"The problem of uniting a church with another church or churches is almost always complicated by property problems. The location of the buildings and the type of building lend themselves to this diversified program. I especially like the slogan, "One Church Under Three Roofs."

The Rev. David Bell says: "With all of the 'ifs' out of the way the United Church of Readfield is moving ahead. The church is expectant of the years ahead and realize that we are just beginning the work that is to be done in Readfield."

Summer Missions Conferences — 1961

For pastors, laymen and laywomen concerned for the mission of the Church, the Summer Mission Conferences will center on the 1961-62 mission themes, "The Christian Mission in Latin American Countries" and "Churches for New Times."

Southwest Conference on the Christian World Mission:

June 10-16 at Mt. Sequoyah Assembly, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Contact: Mrs. R. C. Allmon, 204 E. Kansas St., Walters, Oklahoma.

Rocky Mountain Conference School of Missions:

June 11-16 at Colorado Woman's College, Denver 20, Colorado. Contact: Mrs. Max Van Hall, 1337 Newport St., Denver 20, Colorado.

Silver Bay Conference On The Christian World Mission:

July 12-19 Silver Bay, N. Y. Contact: Dr. J. Allan Ranck, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, N. Y.

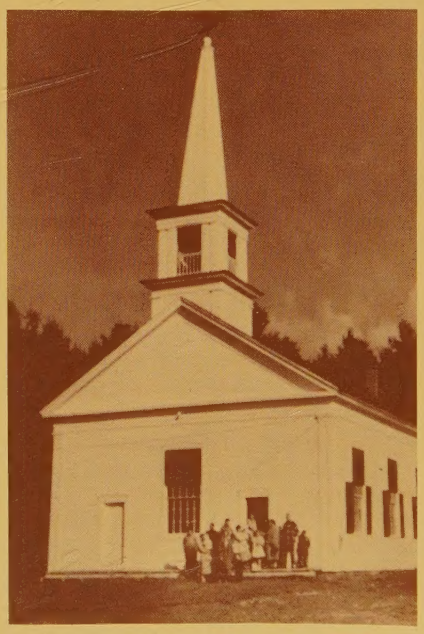
Northfield Conference On The Christian World Mission:

July 16-22 at Northfield School, East Northfield, Mass. Contact: Rev. Theodore S. Horvath, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.

Ecumenical Mission Conferences:

July 28-August 2 and August 2-7.

(Continued on Page 12)



JESSE LEE MEMORIAL, Readfield

Bishop John Wesley Lord Says. . .

Bishop Lord

It is difficult for me to understand the workings of the mind of a churchman who insists that it is not the business of the church to "meddle" in politics, industrial relations or race relations. It is on just such issues that the church must stand as interpreter and guide to righteous moral conduct and behavior on the part of all involved. To be complacent in the face of social inequities and human maladjustments and exploitation is to be false to the historical roots of our Christian faith.

By our condemnation of the secular forces in society, we may be cutting ourselves off from valuable allies who would assist us in the total task of human redemption.

The state, the school, labor and management groups, the United Nations, UNESCO, Point Four, the Colombo Program and countless others should be seen and accepted as allies of the church.

Texas Rural Churches Show New Life

Two small churches in the Gatesville District have proved that not all country churches are dying.

These churches, Clairette and Pleasant Hill, have recently undergone extensive "face lifting" projects. The projects have resulted not only in new beauty for the church, but a new feeling of fellowship which comes from working together on the "volunteer labor" plan.

Clairette began its improvement program by installing beautiful new front doors, with stained glass pictures of "Christ and the children" and "Christ praying in the garden".

In any redecorating project, one new thing calls for another. The new doors were only a beginning of many hours of hard work. Next came the sanding of the rough floors, then filling of the cracks and varnishing, hanging of new draperies, and finally the installation of carpeting.

Youth Give Help

The redecorating of the Pleasant Hill Church was begun by the youth group and their leader, Garvin Wood. The group is now at work on the fellowship hall. Men, women, and young people are putting on sheet rock, hanging curtains, and sanding floors.

Not content with merely a beautiful interior, Pleasant Hill has carried its activities outside and cleared a space on each side of the church for a picnic ground. Passers by are welcome to have their dinner beside the little church just off the highway to Hico.

Pastor Leads Out

The improvement programs of the two churches have been carried out under the leadership of the Rev. A. L. Cronk, who has been pastor of the Clairette Circuit for two years. His wife has made this statement about country churches, "I don't think they will ever die so long as there are God loving people near by."

Farmer's Confession Of Faith

By CLIVE McGUIRE

God and I raised 50 acres of corn. He created the soil, laid deep reservoirs of moisture beneath it, and by an alchemy all his own changed leaves and grass into plant food.

I plowed the land, harrowed it and buried grains of corn in neat rows.

Grain of corn! They would have been as pebbles had not God breathed the breath of life into each grain.

I left the planted field in His care. The warmth of His sunshine played upon it. Tiny green shoots appeared.

I cultivated the ground as God worked by my side.

With my two horses I drove up and down the long rows. God used 121,000 horses in the field—2,420 h.p. units of divine energy per acre every moment that the sun shone.

Throughout the long summer, he watered the growing crop, not like the meager dripping of a garden hose; he distributed 165,000 tons of water over the 50 acres of earth.

He fed the corn from His abundant store of carbon-dioxide, little green chlorophyll bodies in the blades seized the hot rays of the sun and sifted out the energy of the plants needed to digest nitrogen as they sucked it up from God's pantry underground.

I worked 500 hours on our 50 acres. God worked more than six hours to my one—24 hours a day all summer without pausing a minute.

Even after I had finished my work, laid the corn by and left the field, He stayed on. He still had to put rich pollen in the yellow tassels and send His breezes to scatter it over the silky stamens that curled from four million green husks.

In this he worked alone. He was performing a miracle beyond the skill of any human hand or the understanding of the most scientific mind. Without a miracle I should have had no corn for my labor.

Each grain I planted in May became a thousand grains in September.

God packed each grain with potential bone and sinew for my family and my cattle.

He endowed each grain with the germ of life so skillfully wrought, so delicately specialized, so exact in every ingredient that it could reproduce itself in corn and nothing but corn.

The corn we raised is His and mine, for we are fellow workers.

Summer Missions Conferences — 1961

(Continued from Page 11)

Two separate conferences will meet at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, Cal. on above dates. Contact for both: Janet Verkuyl, 83 McAllister Street, San Francisco, California.

Midwest Conference On The Christian World Mission:

August 20-25 at Chautauqua, N. Y. Contact: Dr. Ruth Ransom, Chautauqua, New York.

Pacific Northwest International Mission Conference:

August 23-28 at University of Vancouver, Vancouver, B. C. Contact for U.S.A.: Mrs. H. T. Dietrich, 15003 14th Ave., S.W., Seattle 66, Washington; for Canada: Rev. D. H. Telfer, 3803 W. 23rd Ave., Vancouver 8, British Columbia.

Many moves will take place at the Spring Annual Conferences. Please send your new address to C. Edwin Murphy, Box 208, Lexington, Neb. Send it First Class! He may move, too!

Boost the M.R.F. in your Annual Conference! Help us reach 2,000 members by fall!

"Meet the Commissions" on pages 6, 7 and 8 and send some information on YOUR Commission to Box 28, Rogersville, Tenn.